

**MINUTES
of the
FIRST MEETING
of the
ECONOMIC AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**June 20, 2014
Room 322, State Capitol**

The first meeting of the Economic and Rural Development Committee (ERDC) for the 2014 interim was called to order by Representative Debbie A. Rodella, chair, on Friday, June 20, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. in Room 322 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Rep. Debbie A. Rodella, Chair
Sen. Howie C. Morales, Vice Chair
Rep. Ernest H. Chavez
Rep. Nora Espinoza
Rep. Mary Helen Garcia
Sen. Phil A. Griego
Sen. Richard C. Martinez
Sen. Michael Padilla

Advisory Members

Rep. Zachary J. Cook
Rep. Sandra D. Jeff
Rep. Georgene Louis
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero
Rep. Nick L. Salazar

Absent

Sen. Jacob R. Candelaria
Rep. George Dodge, Jr.
Sen. Ron Griggs
Rep. Dianne Miller Hamilton
Rep. Yvette Herrell
Sen. Pat Woods

Sen. Craig W. Brandt
Sen. Lee S. Cotter
Sen. Timothy M. Keller
Sen. Carroll H. Leavell
Rep. James Roger Madalena
Sen. Mark Moores
Sen. Mary Kay Papen
Sen. John Pinto
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm
Rep. James E. Smith
Rep. Thomas C. Taylor
Rep. Monica Youngblood

Staff

Monica Ewing, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Tessa Ryan, Staff Attorney, LCS
Mark Edwards, Staff Attorney, LCS
John Mitchell, Law Student Intern, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Copies of all handouts are in the meeting file.

Friday, June 20**Call to Order**

Representative Rodella called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m., welcomed the committee and the audience members and asked the committee members and staff to introduce themselves.

2014 Legislation Summary

Ms. Ewing and Mr. Mitchell gave a brief review of 2014 economic development-related legislation.

Mr. Mitchell noted that the ERDC endorsed three bills for the 2014 legislative session, and he provided a brief overview of those bills (House Bill 22, House Bill 237 and Senate Bill 15). He added that none of the committee's endorsed bills was signed into law. However, Ms. Ewing noted that although House Bill 22 — a bill seeking an appropriation of \$207,000 for an adult daycare center — did not pass, \$100,000 was appropriated in the General Appropriation Act of 2014 for the operation and maintenance of an adult daycare center.

Mr. Mitchell discussed two additional economic development-related bills in the 2014 session that were not considered or endorsed by the committee. House Bill 273, the Economic Development Grant Act, was passed and signed into law. He noted that the bill was, however, amended in committee to remove all appropriations from the bill. Senate Bill 9, the One-Stop Business Portal Act, was passed and signed into law.

Review and Adoption of the 2014 Interim Work Plan and Meeting Schedule

Ms. Ewing presented the proposed ERDC work plan to the committee. The committee discussed the work plan, approved all of the proposed items, expanded the scope of a few items to include additional presentations and agreed to add the examination of the following to the work plan:

- the impact of forest fires on the state's communities;
- state support for nonprofit organizations;
- business development opportunities for entrepreneurs;
- economic development in the state's Native American communities; and
- air and rail transportation issues.

The work plan for the 2014 interim was adopted, as amended, without objection.

The committee also discussed and agreed to meeting dates and locations. Ms. Ewing stated that the July 7-9 meeting will be held at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque and that the October 2-3 meeting will be held in Las Cruces. Vicente Vargas, state director for government affairs at New Mexico State University (NMSU), extended an invitation to the committee to hold its October meeting at NMSU. Ms. Ewing explained that the October 2 meeting has been planned as a joint meeting with the Transportation Infrastructure Revenue Subcommittee.

The committee's discussion of the work plan included several requests and comments. A committee member requested a presentation at the July meeting on the recent changes to the Children, Youth and Families Department's rules relating to daycare centers. Another committee member requested a presentation concerning the conflict between White Sands Missile Range and the proposed SunZia project — the construction of a wind and solar power transmission line that will send two bi-directional extra-high-voltage electric transmission lines from Arizona and New Mexico to markets throughout the desert Southwest. Specifically, the committee member requested an update on the proposal to locate sections of the transmission line below ground to eliminate interference.

Another committee member asked that the ERDC extend an invitation to Rio Arriba County and to the City of Espanola to explain their recent food collaboration project.

Committee members discussed the potential impact of the recommendations made by the Regulation and Licensing Department's Liquor Control Act Task Force. Members noted the importance of this issue to the state's rural communities, and Ms. Ewing noted that the task force is tentatively scheduled to present its recommendations at the committee's July meeting.

A committee member asked that the committee focus on housing and infrastructure needs in the southeastern portion of New Mexico and suggested that the committee visit a location in that part of the state during the 2015 interim.

Finally, the committee discussed the creation of three working groups focused on telecommunications issues, nonprofit organizations and the Liquor Control Act.

Public Comment

Jerry Fuentes noted that there are 10 states with industrial hemp laws and that Kentucky's law could serve as a model for such a law in New Mexico.

Justin Green asked to make a presentation to the committee about liquor delivery when the Liquor Control Act Task Force is scheduled on the committee's agenda.

Mr. Vargas expressed NMSU's willingness to assist the committee specifically on issues related to rural health care, economic development incident to forest fires and agricultural tourism.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the first meeting of the ERDC adjourned at 11:17 a.m.